

REMARKS

Claims 14, 21 and 25 have been amended to clarify the invention, and to better define the invention over the prior art. No new matter has been added by the aforementioned change.

The rejection of claims 14-17, 21-22 and 25 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Lin et al. (US Patent Application No. 2002/0022340) is in error. Independent claims 14, 21 and 25, as amended, require "the second thickness of said second portion is substantially uniform across the entirety of said second portion." Lin et al. fails to teach this element. In Lin et al. the thickness of a second portion that is not substantially uniform across the entire second portion. In fact, the thickness dramatically varies over the length of the second portion in Lin et al. Thus, Lin et al. cannot be said to achieve or render obvious independent claims 14, 21 and 25, or the various claims dependent thereon.

The election requirement is noted. Applicant confirms his previous election of claims 14-17, 21, 22 and 25, and request that non-elected claims 18-20, 23, 24 and 26 be maintained in this application, without further action, for possible rejoinder and/or for filing of a divisional application.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.


Form PTO 2038 is enclosed in the amount of \$790.00 for the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) fee.

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In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.


Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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